

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

Item 6. Equipment.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) brought in the following amendment:

Under The Public Works Department, sub-item 49 — SALARIES. Change "Clerk, Frs. 2,160" to "Clerk, Frs. 3,000."

D HAMILTON JACKSON,

1st Member for Frederiksted Town.

June 29, 1923.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. Frs. 500 is not sufficient an amount to supply the Court with the continuation of its library. Just take the Library as we have it. A number of books has to be purchased, and if we are to continue to keep the law library up to date the amount as recommended (Frs. 500) will not be sufficient. The amount should be Frs. 1,500 as proposed by the Honorable 1st Member for Frederiksted Town.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I think we are all anxious to see justice done in this community. If this is to be done then we must have the equipment. We have a Library which is incomplete. It needs a full set of reports. Our Code is taken from the Alaska and Oregon Codes, and we are supposed to rely on those courts for authority. The amount we had on the budget originally was Frs. 2,500; I was quite willing to let that amount remain without change. Very little can be done by the amount allotted by the Committee in buying books for the Library. For example, the reports which I referred to will cost something like \$800, and the amount budgetted can only keep up the library in its present condition. In my amendment I have asked for only Frs. 1,000 more than the amount recommended by the Municipal Committee, and yet that will not be sufficient.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. If books and libraries are all that are necessary for the dispensation of justice, by all means fill a house with them. The Municipal Committee has been charged with undue economy, but it only did what it thought reasonable. If we were sure that the money budgetted for equipment would be used exclusively for purchasing books, well and good, but if for other purposes it should not be allowed.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman.

I take for granted that when the budget calls for certain amount under a certain heading, that amount should be spent for that purpose, if not it should be returned to the Colonial Treasury at the end of the fiscal year.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. It might be spent for typewriters, desks and what not. It is not specifically stated what it shall be spent for.

Government Secretary (Gaffney): The amendment calls for Frs. 1,500 which will be needed to continue contracts and extend the library and for other equipments.

The Vice-Chairman remarked: It is very essential that we have justice, but we will soon be "up against" the Educational Department; and if we increase one we will have to increase the other and the policy to keep the budget within a reasonable amount will fail.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I am interested in economy, but I am not going to cut down the budget to the detriment of the people of this island. Of course, the Honorable Member does not see as I do, but there are two other Lawyers here in the Hall and can support my contention that the amount is needed. If it were not so I would not have proposed the amendment.

The amendment was put the vote. 9 members voted for; none against.

The amendment was adopted.

7. Maintenance — Judiciary Department.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) would like to know the amount spent last year for jurors fees?

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) in answer to the last speaker said: I cannot say exactly, but I can tell the Honorable Member what was spent under maintenance for four months. Last year the Colonial Council passed an executive order reducing the Jurors' fees from Frs. 10 00 per day to Frs. 1 00 per hour in criminal cases.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I am of the opinion that the amount budgetted as jurors' fees is quite ample.

This item (Maintenance) was put to the vote.

9 members voted for; none against.

The Police & Prison Departments.

The Vice-Chairman remarked: No changes have been made to these departments.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I would like to know why the Municipal Committee did not see fit to make changes in these departments. There seems to be plenty of room for changes.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The Municipal Commit-

tee looked at these departments as requiring reconstruction, and until this is done no intelligent change can be made.

* 1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The explanation given by the Honorable 4th Member for Frederiksted Country District is quite satisfactory, but I am not going to vote for salaries until these departments are changed to suit municipal needs.

1st Member for Christiansted Town (Abramson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I am in harmony with the remarks of the last speaker. Very often complaints have reached me in connection with the Prison Department. Quite recently a complaint reached me that the sugar given to prisoners is unwholesome. I would not like either my brother or my son to partake of what I deem unfit for human use. Therefore let us not give the prisoners anything that is unfit for use.

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander): Mr. Vice-Chairman. I see under salaries for this department, one clerk at Frs. 2,700. Who is filling the position at present? I also see one cook and Assistant Matron at Frs. 777.89. Was the cook and Assistant Matron filling the position last year?

The Vice-Chairman: I would ask the Honorable 1st Appointed Member to answer your questions.

1st Appointed Member (Coulter): The budget estimates of the Police and Prison Departments are similar to that of last year. There is not a single change. The position referred to by the Honorable 3rd Member for Christiansted Town is the cook at Frederiksted Prison, and who is also the Assistant Matron, because we frequently have female prisoners there and it is necessary to have her search them. With regard to the remark made by the Honorable 1st Member for Christiansted Town touching sugar, I think I can refer to the Municipal Committee who recently visited the Richmond Penitentiary and tasted the sugar. I don't think that any sugar has been bought for the Prison and Police Departments from the Honorable Member. That must be the trouble.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I said I would not speak much on these departments, but I rise to ask the Vice-Chairman and the Honorable Members whether it does not appear ridiculous to them to have the head of a department sit here in this Council and defend the budget estimates for his departments? I can say that when we went through the Richmond Prison I made inquiries of the sugar complained of and was told that they had a few bags, but it had been used up. But as to whether there was bad sugar and that complaint was made to the Honorable 1st Mem-